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County Life

Celebrating arts and culture in the Haliburton Highlands

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She shoots, she scores
Haliburton girls take to the ice on page 4

Sound of Music
A look at Haliburton's Glee Club on page 5

Days gone by
Postcards from the past on page 7

A young child gets excited about the minnow races at this year's RotaryFest in Minden. /TIM YANO staff photographer

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Dust Detectives Mystery 7:

Want fries with that?

I'm insanely confident about today's antique. My brother's more distracted than usual, so I'm the boss. *Detective* Reba here.

It's way cooler in the hayloft. Thom's no longer coughing from all the junk in yesterday's humidity. He prefers the cooler spring and fall when other people's allergies go crazy. I love summer and winter. They match my style. I'm big into fun. Thom designs comics or practices being a chef. But he'll go snowshoeing with me if I stop every single time he wants to take pictures.

DEB REED
Wind in the Attic

His phone photos are in colour, but he's been editing many of them into black and white. Our great-grandfather appreciates this since he also has an eye for art. Farmers notice changes, especially how nature paints totally different moods over the very same fields. He once asked Thom for a print of the barn against a thunderstorm sky. That picture is now framed in wood, and hangs in Pops' bedroom.

Pops feels much better today, and is back to his old self. His eyes twinkle when Thom and I show him what we bring from the hayloft. We choose stuff we can safely carry up and down the ladder, plus we return every object to exactly where we found it. Thom says it's the right thing to do. He saves photos of antiques for future drawing reference.

We're now on the porch swing, sipping lemon-mint iced tea again, and helping ourselves to cookies. When Aunt Vera isn't around (she's Pops' other daughter, and our Gran's sister), we get to eat as many as we want. Thom chomps loudly all around his third molasses cookie. I hate those, and eat politely, so I nibble on a tiny store-bought cocoa snap.

Pops instantly recognizes today's antique, but still asks for guesses. He uses lots of *-ate* words, like *investigate, concentrate, speculate, evaluate.* Thom's still way too busy inhaling cookies, so it seems I'm flying solo:

OMG! I know EXACTLY what this is. It's obviously for making crinkle-cut fries. You heat up the iron bits on a wood stove, then squeeze them together around a piece of potato!

Thom chuckles, and looks up from his annoying slobbering. Crumbs drop. Then he slurps his tea. *Ew*!

Pops stares at him and waits many seconds. Thom's still in molasses-land, already reaching for home-bake number five. Who's counting? I am. You'd think we didn't feed him at home. Six. Seven. Slobber. Slurp…

Spot on, Reba! You've solved how to heat these. Mother sometimes even used a kerosene lamp. Those wooden handles protected fingers. The crinkly ends crimped my little sister's hair. She wanted curls like older girls, and this was a shortcut. Actually, this crimper might be quite useful for at least one of you…

Pops tugs at Thom's shaggy hair. Gran recently streaked it neon red and yellow:

Shall we test a hundred-year-old beauty tool? We might improve this Vincent van Gogh party going on here. ***After*** *Thom's final cookie, that is…*

Author's Note

Our second read-aloud newspaper series for today's kids investigates and honours the generations before them. Past lifetimes were as meaningful then as our current realities are to us. Kids everywhere are naturally curious, and they love a good historical mystery. Everyone does!

Artifacts are not always recognizable to newer generations. In this series, twin detectives (you might recognize them from Series 1), apply their former teacher's learning approach to examine their great-grandfather's antique collection. There's a real photo every time, questions, speculation, informed answers, and hopefully, revived knowledge around what was once very important to our elders. Enjoy!

See this week's
***Haliburton Echo* and *Minden Times* for:**
-Celebrating Pride Week
-Raising funds for SickKids
-LifeLabs update
-History and mystery across the county

New hunting dog savvy

NOW THAT hunting season is almost upon us, many hunters will be sneaking in new items to make their time in the field more enjoyable. Much has been written by experts such as me on the proper ways to sneak in new guns, fishing rods, camo clothing, boots, decoys, canoes and boats so they go unnoticed by your budget-conscious better half.

STEVE GALEA
Beyond 35

Yet precious little has been written on the fine art of sneaking in a hunting dog.

As you might suspect, this takes a little more commitment.

For instance, until the pup is discovered, you will have to say that you are the one responsible for all the "accidents."

This alone will put a great strain on a relationship. But it is nothing compared to the strain that occurs when your spouse finally finds out you got yet another hunting dog that costs more than the home renovation that you said was "too expensive."

But we are getting ahead of ourselves. The first issue is sneaking the pup in the house.

In the old days, a pup used to be snuck into the house using the old trench coat and fedora method. This requires the person sneaking the pup in to enter the house fully hidden inside a trench coat with the new pup on his shoulders wearing a fedora. Sure, your spouse might notice that you appear slightly taller and a whole lot cuter, but most times this and "You need a shave" is all that is noted.

This still works today.

Personally, I prefer smuggling the pup in the back of my trousers. If you do this correctly, by rushing past your spouse and saying, "I need the washroom now!" he or she will not question why there is movement and perhaps even barking emanating from the seat of your pants. Needless to say, the pup should be kept on the outside of your underwear. Otherwise, people will think you are weird.

This does not work with anything larger than a golden retriever.

Other ways include placing the pup in a box clearly labelled "Not a hunting dog!" or, if the pup is sleeping and of a long-haired breed, having it pass off as a new toupee.

Once the pup is actually in the house, things get interesting.

First off, unless your spouse is completely addicted to social media, they will probably take notice of the subtle hints, which include chewed up slippers, constant barking, and the sudden purchase of puppy food and dog bowls.

They might even notice the pup as it tugs on their pant legs.

Once this occurs, it is incumbent on you to act surprised and say things like, "Oh my goodness! Where did you come from?"

I should point out that one fatal mistake we often make is to add the name of the pup to that question. This usually exposes the ruse, so try to avoid it.

At this stage, you should let nature take its course and watch your spouse fall in love with the puppy, which again should not be referred to by its name.

If your spouse is hard-hearted and lacking humanity however, he or she will tell you to take it to the dog shelter – which you should pretend to do. Then return an hour later, using the trench coat or back of trouser method and give it a second try. And third, if required.

In the end, all but the coldest-hearted spouses will succumb to the puppy's charms.

Especially, if you agree to do the home renovation.

Ontario Culture Days celebrates arts, culture and community

Ontario Culture Days is coming to Haliburton Highlands from September 18 to October 4, 2026, offering residents and visitors an opportunity to connect, create and celebrate the rich arts, culture and heritage of our communities.

The province-wide festival celebrates creativity through free, participatory events, performances, workshops and studio tours hosted by local artists, cultural organizations and community groups.

This year, Haliburton has been designated a Spotlight Destination for Ontario Culture Days, putting the Haliburton Highlands at the center of a province-wide celebration of arts and culture. The Arts ~Council Haliburton Highlands has taken on the role of provincial hub for Ontario Culture Days and is helping to bring together artists, organizations and communities throughout Haliburton County.

The arts have an important role to play in enriching our lives, the Arts Council says. They provide opportunities to make new connections, engage in meaningful conversations, discover different perspectives and embrace creativity. They can also help us better understand the culture and history of our own area while giving us opportunities to learn about the experiences and traditions of others. We are all healthier and more well-rounded when we embrace some form of the arts – music, theatre, painting, writing, quilting, and more – by being a creator or being part of the audience.

The Arts Council invites everyone to come out and be part of this vibrant celebration to :

Connect with others and different ideas. Engage in conversations. Enjoy and embrace creativity. Discover the culture and history of our area and of others. And, most importantly, be part of a welcoming and vibrant community.

Haliburton Highlands is proud to be a Spotlight Destination, and the community is invited to take part in the many experiences that make our region such a special place to live, work and visit. And if you have an idea for an arts and culture event, contact us at www.Haliburtonarts.on.ca

Come out, get involved and discover what happens when a community comes together through the arts.

To see the events planned to date in Haliburton County go to www.oncultureday s.ca/festival-hubs/haliburton-2026

Submitted

ontario culture days

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Local girls represent Haliburton on the ice

Haliburton Lakers Bring Home Third-Place Finish at Prestigious Queen of the Rings Tournament, on one of Ontario's biggest stages.

Local girls took to the ice in Toronto at the 2026 Queen of the Rings Tournament the first weekend of August, finishing third overall. /submitted

The Haliburton Lakers U15BB all-girls hockey team returned home from Toronto with plenty to celebrate, after an impressive showing at the 2026 Queen of the Rings Tournament, one of the premier female hockey events in North America. Competing against strong teams from across Ontario and beyond, the Lakers captured the consolation championship and finished third overall in their division, capping off a memorable weekend of competition and camaraderie.

Hosted annually in the Greater Toronto Area, the Queen of the Rings tournament is widely regarded as one of the most prestigious events in girls' hockey, drawing top female teams from across the continent for a showcase of talent, sportsmanship, and competition.

Representing Haliburton County in the U15BB division, the Lakers displayed impressive skill, resilience, and teamwork, overcoming challenges and growing stronger with every game. Their hard work paid off with a consolation-round championship and a third-place overall finish, a remarkable achievement for a team proudly carrying the Haliburton name onto a major provincial stage.

Parents, coaches, and supporters noted the way the athletes competed with intensity while also representing their hometown with determination, respect, sportsmanship and pride.

"The results were fantastic, but what stood out most was the way the players supported one another and never quit," said trainer Ginnie Foulds. "They showed tremendous character throughout the weekend and represented Haliburton County in a way our entire community can be proud of."

The success of the Lakers was supported by the dedication of a committed coaching and support staff. Head coach Mike Hamilton, trainer Ginnie Foulds, and assistant coaches Joe Cox and Dan Hanson, played key roles in preparing the team and guiding the athletes through the challenges of tournament competition. Their leadership, encouragement, and commitment helped create an environment where players could shine both on and off the ice.

The team also acknowledged Lisa Irvine for her exceptional work behind the scenes. From planning and logistics to tournament coordination and team management, Irvine's leadership helped ensure the players and coaches could focus on hockey while enjoying a well-organized and positive experience.

"Events like Queen of the Rings require a lot of preparation long before the puck drops," said coach Mike Hamilton. "Lisa's dedication to the team was invaluable and greatly appreciated by players and families alike."

This year's appearance marks the third time a team from the Haliburton area has participated in the prestigious Queen of the Rings tournament, further highlighting the strong interest and talent across the county. Many of the U15 players are already talking about the possibility of returning next year and once again representing Haliburton County with pride.

"This tournament was a great opportunity for this talented group of girls to showcase their skill and demonstrate what they can accomplish when they work together," said team manager, Lisa Irvine. "They're already motivated to come back stronger next season and continue building on this success."

While Irvine had hoped to field both a U13 and U15 teams for the 2026 event, a U13 team was ready to go, but could not secure a goalie. However, the success of the Lakers has strengthened optimism for the future. Irvine says their goal is to return next season with both U13 and U15 teams competing under the Haliburton banner.

With a third-place finish, countless memories, and renewed excitement for the future, the Haliburton Lakers have once again demonstrated what can be achieved through dedication, teamwork, and community support.

Submitted by Michelle Adlam

Haliburton Gymnastics gets off on the right foot

EMILY STONEHOUSE
County Life Editor

It's the moment many parents and busy kids have been waiting for.

The gymnastics gym is almost ready.

What started as a dream for Kathy Judson as she chauffeured her two kids to and from the city to participate in sports, has turned into a reality for the community as a whole.

As of Aug. 17, Judson officially launched Haliburton Gymnastics off Industrial Park Road as a soft opening. "The timing isn't exactly what we expected or hoped," explained Judson. "We got access to the facility May 1, but due to unexpected hold ups obtaining our permit to start construction, we weren't able to start anything until closer to July. Luckily we have the best trades on the tasks and everyone has laser focus to get us open on time."

Because it's a soft opening, Judson noted that the site will be functional and safe, but details around signage, paint, and new walls are still in the works. She anticipates the grand opening will kick off their fall programming in September.

But Judson doesn't do anything small. While completing the site itself was a feat, the coach and mother dedicated herself to a plethora of programming to offer the families of Haliburton County, including recreational, precompetitive, and competitive gymnastics, parent and tot and kinder classes, acrobatics and aerial arts, adult gymnastics, an open gym, rock climbing and bouldering, offerings for homeschool groups, birthday parties, and day camps, tumbling from beginner to advances, and trampoline classes.

"To my amazement, we have a lot of talent and experience on our team," said Judson. "Our head coach, John Craig, has more than 30 years coaching high level competitive gymnastics and is Coach Learning Facilitator for Gymnastics Ontario, which means he also offers the courses to train coaches."

Craig will be training a large group of the Haliburton Gymnastics coaches at the end of the month. "We have three competitive level trained coaches including myself, John and another," explained Judson, "then we have two more highly experienced rec coaches: Christina Jones and Amelia Cunningham, whom many of the kids will recognize." All coaches are trained through the National Coach Certification Program (NCCP), and properly vetted by Gymnastics Ontario.

The facility recently added two certified climbing coaches on the roster: Drew Moore and Holly Peterson.

Judson laughed saying that she "broke the internet" when the booking website first went live. "The site literally stopped working for a few hours as it got too many hits at once," she said. With only the basics available for now, August drop-in classes and try-outs are open and available at www.haliburtongymnastics.com. Judson shared that additional classes and registrations will be available shortly, so encourages all those interested to keep an eye on the site.

While the progress is notable, Judson shared that it was not for the faint of heart. "Ever since I began to put this together, I've had to maintain a one-foot-in-front-of-the-other approach," she said, noting that the construction phase has gone on a little longer than she had hoped for. Eventually, Judson hopes to be in a position to apply for grants that exist for not-for-profits, and to either expand the facility, or eventually purchase the building they are using. "But I feel it's important to keep our rhythm and the step by step approach for now," she said.

It's a labour of love, creating a facility for the community as a whole. Judson was quick to point out the many volunteers, contractors, and support networks that have contributed to getting Haliburton Gymnastics off the ground. "Without those key players, this would not have happened," she said. "What an incredible lesson and message I believe we are sending our local youth about coming together to fulfill a community need, and also, that we can overcome what feels like 'the impossible' when we rally for something together."

Listen to Haliburton's history in a record store

BETHANY HOUGHTON
Blue Jay Café

Haliburton local Bill Gliddon started the very first Glee Club in the area, and the record of some of their songs can be found at Redmans Records. /photo by Bethany Houghton

We can all see that Haliburton has become a hub of artistic and musical talent.

It's worth questioning how that happened. Who made Haliburton this musical beacon?

The answer might be found in an old record, currently stored at Redmans records. It's entitled, "Haliburton Highlands Secondary School Glee Club April 8, 1967." One copy of this showed up in the record shop several years ago. Since then, more copies have surfaced. There are now four copies at Redmans Records.

If you put the record on, you can hear a full young choir with piano accompaniment perform songs like *Somewhere my Love*, *Climb Every Mountain* and *Canada* which is a musical homage to the '67 Centennial celebrations.

This record, like most of the happenings in our musical community, can be traced to Bill Gliddon, who ran the Glee Club at Haliburton Highlands Secondary in 1967 when after a very successful Kiwanis festival, someone recommended that they send a recording to a national competition.

Les Smith from Toronto had a business taking his portable recording equipment around Ontario from school to school. When Bill asked him to make a recording for the festival, they kept adding more songs until it was a full album. They recorded it in the Girls' Gym on a Saturday. They Started at 10:00 and kept going until 2:30. They were "Happily exhausted," says Bill. "Les said our school was the best he'd ever recorded."

Bill had only been running the Glee Club for one year when these recordings were made. He has always aimed to inspire young musicians. He says, "Before I started the Glee Club there really wasn't any music here."

When he was young, Bill took piano lessons from a man who came to the school from out of town. That teacher only took a few keen students out for a lesson once or twice a month. Bill ended up being mostly self taught up to grade 10 RCM before going to university for music and composition. Only someone with that kind of self motivation would be able to take a group of mostly untrained students in 1966 and within a year have them singing choral four part harmonies for a recording.

Amazingly popular in its beginning, the Glee Club that year had 88 students. Some of whom are still locals and still own their own copy of the record. Many of the last names on the insert are familiar.

Dianne Hagerman was a student at the high school at the time. She says; "We had no music program at the high school in those years and it was a wonderful idea to form a Glee Club and to make a recording for the 100th birthday of Canada. I had always loved singing, in church choirs and festivals, in a folk song extracurricular club at school. Bill was my piano teacher, so I knew he would be fun to sing with. And it was very special to 'cut a record'…we felt so grown up and professional. What a wonderful opportunity he offered us. Ever grateful!"

Kelsey Redman of Redmans Records says that she would likely be able to sell some of the copies if people are interested. Even if you just want to hear the record, you can head over to the shop, and ask her to play it. She'll put it on the turntable, and you can hear a sampling of Haliburton's music history.

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Words

I HAVE three kids, all in various stages of their reading journeys.

One is entering teenage-hood. Her preferences in reading span past the early days of dragons and wizards. She's hovering closer to romance, conflict, drama. Her outside worlds suddenly mirroring her book worlds, or vice versa.

The middle one is wise beyond her years. She loves mystery, imagination, whimsy and wonder. Once she's sucked into a book, it's hard to pull her out. I envy her level of nonchalance towards the outside world, when her nose is deep in a world of wonder.

EMILY STONEHOUSE
County Life Editor

The third is just starting on his reading path. Not quite two-and-a-half, we've read to him every night since he was wee. I even have a memory of propping a book on my rounded belly, reading outloud to *Red is Best* and *Goodnight Moon*, hoping that he found comfort in my voice, even before his eyes had seen the light.

Since having my son, I have found a new love for books. I grew up as a reader, but during my pregnancy, I suddenly found that I had some time. Or at least, slightly more time than I was used to having.

I was forever a book lover. But not just the stories inside the books, but the books themselves. The dashes of colour on the covers, the crinkle of the pages, the smell that permeates a sense of nostalgia we all somehow carry.

But with kids and early bedtimes, those books became a thing of the past.

Until I committed to a change.

I swore I'd never do it, but I switched out my trusty dusty tomes, and invested in an e-reader.

At first, I kept my reading method as a secret; fearful that I would tarnish my legitimacy as a reader, as a writer.

But then something changed.

Instead of leafing through books through the twilight hours, I found myself reading more; the dim warm light emanating from the e-reader extended my reading times, kept my snoozing wee bundle at ease, and gave me something to do with my mind, my body, my soul, my hands, during those early hazy days of postpartum.

And I kept at it. One book quickly flowing into the next. Again and again, the world at my fingertips.

All this to say, there is no right or wrong way to consume words.

As a writer, I've long been simultaneously mindful and in complete awe of the world of words. 26 little lines, dashes, dots and squiggles, melded and molded into every story we've ever known.

From dragons and romance to *Goodnight Moon*, words and letters are the foundational building blocks of imagination, of stories, of pasts and presents and futures.

And no matter how you consume those words, the value is in them being shared. Passed down through well-thumbed paperbacks or campfire tales. Listened to in the car during a long roadtrip, or tapped out with a dim light from a tired new mother.

Once a story settles itself into your soul, you'll never be the same again.

And I think that's truly beautiful.

Top 10 signs that you are really lost

A LOT of people – OK, men – have a difficult time accepting that they are lost. Instead, they will make up excuses and say things like "The place must have moved" or "They changed the roads since last time I was here."

The point is, it's just not that easy to determine at what point you are officially lost. So, as a public service, here are the top 10 signs that you are truly lost.

STEVE GALEA
Humour Columnist

1. Road signs are suddenly in a different language.
2. Other cars are suddenly being driven on the wrong side of the road.
3. Huge uptick in local penguin populations.
4. First time you ever encountered ostrich crossing signs.
5. You've driven eight hours and still haven't found the corner store.
6. Google Maps App keeps adding "For the love of God" in front of all turn instructions.
7. You start flipping coins to determine which way you'll turn.
8. Just passed a sign that says, "Next exit, Northwest Passage."
9. Have done so many circles that people think you are on a racetrack.
10. Just drove by the International Space Station for the second time.

Snails

Snails emerging from the drenched earth, and their
hiding places among the litter of leaves,
curled in their shells, clinging to blades of grass after
Rain, colonies of them, crossing the border between
grass and concrete,
oozing onto the sidewalk, where my feet and eyes
pause, to gawk down at their shells, precious as gems,
that I am tempted to pluck up from the ground, and
hold and admire in the palm of my hand, but I leave
them be,
knowing that the snails are still inside their brittle
shells, carrying their Home with them
wherever they go,
embarking on their journey across the desert of concrete, an oasis of tall grasses and weeds
waiting for them
on the other side, my eyes transfixed by the tiny
antennae peeping out of the shells, wondering whether the snails feel
the freshness of Air after Rain, the way I feel breeze
graze the flesh of my cheeks and arms and feet,
as I crouch down on the slab of concrete to watch
a lone snail missing its shell, ooze its way across the
sidewalk,
no place to hide from the behemoth of a boulder
hovering over it, I wonder whether it senses
my presence,
exposed to the elements and my prying eyes,
fascinated by the homeless snail's plight,
wondering whether it abandoned its shell on
purpose, to explore the world beyond it, leaving the
only Home it's ever known,
now slinking alone, across strange terrain, towards
the forest of grass and weeds springing from the strip
of No Man's land
between the sidewalk and street, where raindrops
dripping from blades of grass will moisten its flesh
as it searches for a place to rest, the other snails, all
still carrying their shells, knowing where they will
spend the Night,
beneath the brown-spiraled roofs that have sheltered them from birth, the earth waiting
to receive them
when the droplets of Rain have dried, and they grow
brittle in their shells, seeking their secret
hiding places again,
I worry for the lone snail missing its shell, oozing its
way, naked, across the concrete, nothing to shelter it
but Sky,
swirls of ink clouds lingering after Rain, how long
and slow its journey will be, like the lives of humans if
they're lucky,
roofs to shelter them or the arms of others, but the
shells of their flesh exposing them every day
to the elements
and strangers' eyes, nowhere to hide but meet each
other's gaze, before glancing away, feeling naked,
some days,
as if the feelings churning inside are visible to those
that carry their own burdens beneath the
shell of their flesh,
I rise from the ground, feeling like a giant hovering
over these snails, emerging from the earth after Rain,
to explore their sliver of world before they curl back
into the cocoon of their shell, the darkness of the earth
shrouding them,
my eyes peering down at the lone snail missing its
shell, oozing across the sidewalk, hoping it reaches the
other side Alive,
where tall grasses and weeds wait to shelter it, my
eyes glancing up at Sky, changing every day,
feeling small as the snails oozing across the slab of
concrete holding my feet, slowing my pace and
Breath as I walk,
inhaling the beauty of this brittle world, rinsed by
Rain, fragile as an abandoned shell, waiting for its
inhabitant to return.

Sylvie Kalenda

Glimpses of the past

RUSS WUNKER
Glimpses of the Past

North of Miners' Bay – Power House – Minden

In 1929, the Old Mills at Minden were demolished to make way for a modern dam and powerhouse to create electricity. The Orillia Water Light and Power Commission began the project and erected a dam and power plant that was officially opened on October 25, 1935.

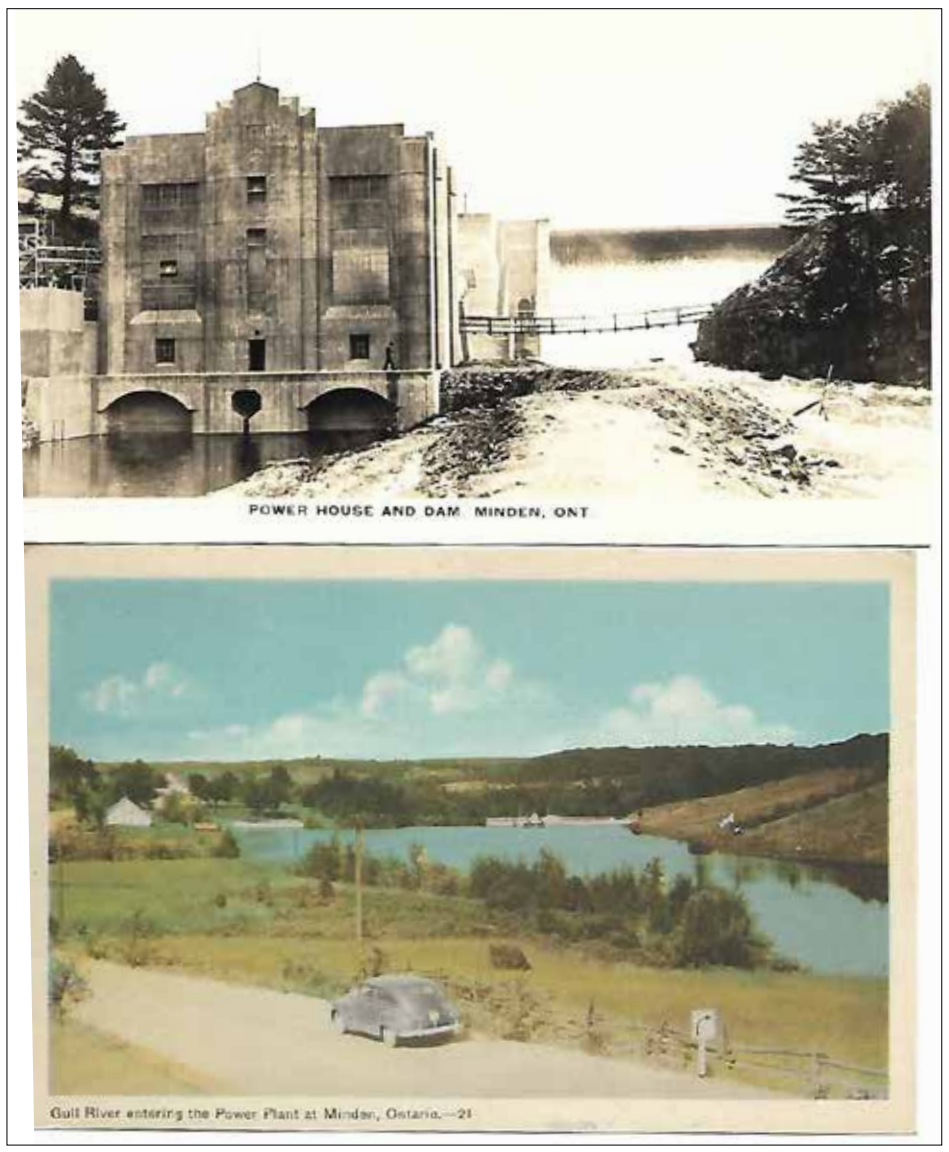
By that December, homes in Minden had electricity, and the gas lanterns that had illuminated the village streets since 1910, were retired. Reflecting the times, the Power Plant had an Art Deco style.

A local poet reflected on the change. The first verse of his *The March Of Progress* reads:

From the flow which turned the mill stone,
Where oft' the slow ox team;
Soon through mans's inventive genius,
Far off city light shall gleam.

The first post card dates to the late 1930s. The second to a decade later, and was produced by (PECO), the Photogelatine Engraving Company Limited of Toronto.

Miners' Bay was not served by commercial electricity until after WW II.



Sunset by Tammy Nash

Haliburton Sculpture Forest

ALIVE 25 years of Sculpture

You are invited to ALIVE 25!
A week-long celebration of the
25th anniversary of the Sculpture Forest
August 24-30

Mon Aug 24 **Art Happening** Call to Create, 4:00pm to 6:00pm
Tues Aug 25 **Free Guided Tour of the Sculpture Forest** 10:00am – 12:00pm
Wed Aug 26 **Artist Talk – Mairéad Filgate** 4:45pm – 5:45pm
Wed Aug 26 **Launch of Atmo-Sphere sound composition** 7:00pm to 8:00pm

Thurs Aug 27 **Sculpture Forest Odyssey Tour** 10:00am – 11:30am
Fri Aug 28 **Circle of Qi, Qigong in the Sculpture Forest** 11:00am – 12:00pm

Sat Aug 29 **Induction of 5 New Sculptures** & **Sculpture Forest ALIVE 25 Celebration** 2:00pm – 5:00pm.
Sun Aug 30 **Sculpture Forest ALIVE** - an immersive performing arts journey Two shows: 11:00am and 2:00pm

All week **Plan to pop by during the week**, to see the performances in development

www.haliburtonsculptureforest.ca

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Writing on the Senior Side

Cottage country is calling

GAIL STELTER
County Life Contributor

Cottage country is calling. You hear it but you don't answer.

Cottage country is calling. You want to answer but the timing is not quite right.

Cottage country is calling. Hurray, you finally answered and now you are here as a visitor, or a renter, or perhaps you are staying at a lakeside resort.

Cottage country is calling and you think, no need to call me anymore, I live in cottage country. I live where clear lakes sparkle in the setting sun and tall trees reach the sky; where the air is fresh and small lakeside towns and villages dot the landscape.

According to Wikipedia, based on Statistics Canada 2021, Haliburton County has about 20, 571 permanent year-round residents. The population surges to roughly 60,000 during summer peak weeks as seasonal cottage owners and visitors arrive. We have ~21,072 private dwellings, and more than half are seasonal or secondary properties. And there are always new people just like us who continue to answer the call of cottage country

My first trip to Haliburton happened when my parents answered the call in 1960. Dad was always the driver, and mom always encouraged him to slow down. He might have told her, as he often did, that he was flying low. I was in the back seat with two lawn chairs and my dog, Hydro. We were on a holiday, not quite a whole family holiday, as my seventeen-year-old brother is at home. He has a summer job, and I know he is happy to be home and will have his friends at our house playing guitars and cards. I know this because most Saturdays, when mom is working at Simpsons and dad is at the Humber House, he and his friends hang out in our basement.

The cottage rental is on Minden Lake. Our road trip includes singing our car trip favourites. Flying low works for me, and soon, we arrive at the never-ending road into the lake. I am grabbed by the narrow one-car tree-lined road, the ups and downs, the twists and turns, and the hydro crews putting up poles. I especially like that. No electricity will be awesome! The lake comes into view. My mother probably said, "Look, Gates." I know this because she always says this. I was fourteen, and I remember her telling me, "Look, Gates" at some cows by the roadside.

I met a friend, Maxine and her brother whose name I cannot remember. That week I taught myself to swim and I went for my first boat ride. When we weren't swimming out to the floating dock, Maxine, her brother and I explored and walked through the forest to Horseshoe Lake. Maxine taught me a chalkboard game called SOS.

The little cottage included mice running along the rafters. I had never seen a mouse and I thought I should be afraid, but my dad laughed and he promised me I would be fine. I believed him.

I roamed around the little town of Minden looking in all the stores and I was so pleased with the little single-flower vase I bought for my mom. I did this while my parents went grocery shopping, to the beer store or the Legion. In these post-war years, the Legion was still the meeting place for World War II vets.

One night, a policeman drove up to our cottage. I didn't know the police would come here. Was this for an unpaid speeding ticket? Was something wrong with my brother? The police officer told my dad that my brother was trying to reach him. No phones at the cottage. After driving to town, we learned that dad had received notification of a new job posting and my brother wanted to make sure he didn't miss the application deadline. Relief.

There were a two more summers of cottage rentals at Davis Lake and Lake Chemong. There was the summer as a camp counselor near Penetang on Georgian Bay. I fell in love with cottage country, and it was no surprise when we finally heard and answered the call in 1995, and became cottage owners on Drag Lake and then full-time residents.

Answering the call on the senior side continues even as our aging bodies take twists and turns. We have moved to a home that does not have all the steps down to the lake. Nevertheless, we continue to live our cottage country life with our pontoon boat and long swims on almost every hot day. This week we have stepped back into the role of cottage renters, and as I sit writing this, I am looking out over Kash. All our children and grandchildren will be here – coming and going as the older grandkids kids now are working during the summer. Having our family come together at this point in all our lives can be a challenge but the draw of cottage summertime and memories of past summers is entrenched in the hearts of our children and grandchildren. I didn't think we'd be renters again, but I'm sure glad we are. Life is sometimes cyclical and that is okay. I am grateful we answered this call and all the calls that came before.

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- close to 1000's acres of crown land

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- New septic system (2020)
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Broker
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WOODS ROAD $815,000

A fabulous view of Barnum Lake, a beautiful home on an executive-style lot, and a large oversized above-ground pool and hot tub. 3 bedroom, 3 bath home sits just outside of Haliburton. Beautiful kitchen, large sunroom, attached garage. Perfect home for a family and must be seen.

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NORTH SHORE ROAD $374,900

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Nature in your backyard

County Life welcomes photo submissions depicting life in the Highlands. Email emily@ haliburtonpress.com. Please ensure images are high resolution - 200 dpi, 10 inches at its longest edge.

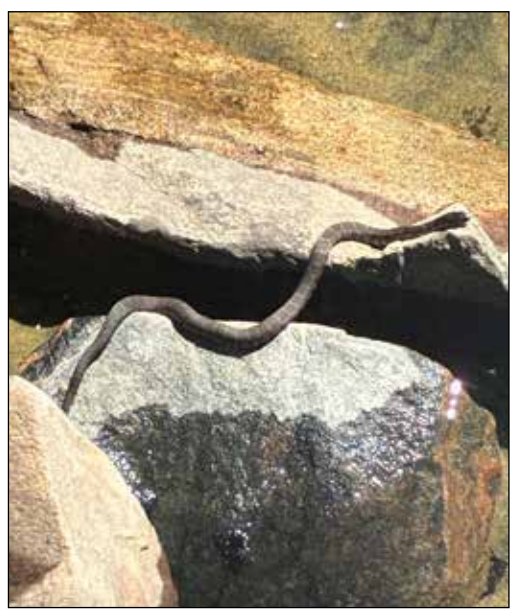
Bear by Tammy Nash

Loon landing by Darlene Johnston

Beaver Pond by Tammy Nash

Blossoming sunflower by Randy Barber

Monarch by Linda Tatler



Water snake by Yale Brick

Peek-a-boo by Tammy Nash

Dragonfly by Debi Ireland

Nature's Art by Laura Smith

Make way for ducklings by Debi Ireland

Swallowtail by Randy Barber

Loon pair by Jill Moulton

Beaver by Randy Barber

Clowning around with Minden Rotary

For the first time ever, Minden Rotary expanded their traditional offerings by holding a two-day RotaryFest in downtown Minden, with games, activities, face painting, vendors, a community yard sale, and live music in August. The Celebrity Clowns took to the streets to raise money for community project, supported and organized through Minden Rotary. While the rain held off and hundreds flocked to downtown Minden, the event was one of the top community events of the summer, and was fun for all ages. /TIM YANO staff photographer

classifieds@haliburtonpress.com
Deadline Thursday at Noon

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GARAGE SALE

Large Garage Sale. Deck heaters, table top saw, helmets, baseball gloves, football and hockey jerseys, bbq accessories, 8"augers, tonka toys, tables, dressers and more. large assortment of items. 5570 Gelert Rd. **Saturday, August 29**

YARD SALE – Saturday, August 29, 1017 Miners' Bay Road. 8am – 3pm Always lots of good stuff. Canadiana, Antiques, 50" Diameter Solid Oak Round Table with set of 4 chairs, c. 1947 Model 2N Ford Ferguson Tractor in Running Condition, Mint Condition Ladies KHS Bike with 17" Aluminum alloy frame, disc brakes, less than 100 km, and much more. LAST SALE OF THE YEAR!

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Condo For Rent with option to purchase. Beautiful two bedroom, two bathroom air conditioned condo. Top floor corner unit providing a stunning view of Head Lake. Granite View Located at 4 Lake St. is only a 5 minute walk to the lake and town amenities. Open concept includes one indoor parking spot, storage locker, radiant heat, water, and stainless steel appliances. Move in ready. Freshly painted. Available to rent at $2800/month with the option to purchase at $565,000 anytime during the first 12 month rental agreement. Contact **705-455-7568** for details.

LOOKING TO RENT

I will be moving from Toronto to the Haliburton/Minden area for a new job starting in Sept. I'm a quiet, hard working guy and **need a 1 bedroom/studio/or shared rental for Sept. 1**(or sooner). I would love to hear from you if you have something available. Contact **jillmcdowell@rogers.com** or **416-799-7094**. Many thanks.

WANTED

Cleaner Wanted for Airbnb in Trappers Trail area. 3 Bedroom 2 Bath Call **647-459-7675.** Approximately three and a half hrs per clean

---

Wanted: scrap cars and trucks. Cash paid. Please call **705-286-3758** or **cell 249-332-1212**

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CUT SPLIT & DELIVERED seasoned firewood 90% maple/all hardwood. Very clean wood. Dry also available. CALL AND INQUIRE: **705-930-7198**

Firewood For Sale. $350 for bushcord picked up. $500 for bushcord delivered. Contact **705-286-3435**

COMING EVENTS

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Begins September 12th - October 31st
And runs for 8 consecutive Saturdays from 10-12pm
Offered by the local not-for-profit
Mindful Way Meditation & Retreat Centre
For more information and to register by September 4th visit:
www.mindfulway.org

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Looking for a **P/T bartender**, current smart serve, police check, experience, lift 50 lbs, Haliburton Legion, resume to **mikecwaller@gmail.com**

CURRY GMC

Curry Chevrolet Buick GMC Ltd. is looking for a motivated, customer-focused **SERVICE ADVISOR** to join our growing team in Haliburton.
If you enjoy working with people, thrive in a fast-paced environment, and take pride in delivering exceptional service, we'd love to hear from you.

Key Responsibilities:
- Greet customers and act as the main point of contact throughout their service visit
- Listen to customer concerns and clearly explain recommended maintenance and repairs
- Write accurate repair orders and communicate effectively with technicians
- Provide transparent timelines, estimates, and updates to customers
- Promote and upsell maintenance services based on manufacturer recommendations
- Ensure a high level of customer satisfaction and CSI performance
- Handle warranty, internal, and customer-pay work efficiently
- Maintain organized service records and follow dealership processes

Qualifications:
- Previous Service Advisor or automotive experience preferred (GM experience an asset)
- Strong customer service and communication skills
- Ability to multitask and stay organized in a busy service department
- Professional, friendly, and solution-oriented attitude
- Basic computer skills and familiarity with DMS systems (experience an asset)
- Valid Ontario driver's licence

What We Offer:
- Competitive compensation package
- Ongoing training and career development opportunities
- Supportive team environment with a locally owned dealership

Thank you for your interest! Only those selected for an interview will be contacted.
Send your resumes to Jill Coombes, Service Manager
jill@currychevrolet.ca

CURRY GMC

Curry Chevrolet Buick GMC Ltd. is seeking a
LICENSED AUTOMOTIVE TECHNICIAN (310S)
to join our service team. As a key member of our dealership, you will play an essential role in delivering a high-quality service experience while ensuring vehicle safety, reliability, and customer satisfaction.

Key Responsibilities:
- Perform vehicle maintenance and repairs as assigned
- Diagnose vehicle malfunctions and complete repairs accurately and efficiently
- Inspect vehicles to identify additional safety or service-related needs
- Communicate repair procedures and findings clearly with Service Advisors
- Complete road tests and safety inspections
- Maintain productivity while meeting dealership quality standards
- Support overall service department efficiency and customer satisfaction

Qualifications:
- Valid Automotive Service Technician Certificate of Qualification (310S)
- Strong mechanical and diagnostic aptitude
- Valid Ontario Driver's Licence (Class G) with a clean driving record
- Ability to work collaboratively in a team-oriented environment
- Positive, professional attitude with strong interpersonal skills
- Ability to operate both manual and automatic transmissions
- Previous dealership experience preferred; GM training considered an asset

What We Offer:
- Competitive compensation based on experience
- Ongoing training and professional development opportunities
- Supportive team environment in a locally owned dealership

We do thank all applicants in advance, however only those selected for an interview will be contacted.
Send your resumes to Al Clement, Service Manager
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We are looking for a computer-savvy individual with great customer service skills to join our team! This employment opportunity offers a flexible schedule with hours that work within your child's school day! Includes statutory holidays and weekends off! If this sounds like you, apply today!

Responsibilities will include
- Advertising sales, classifieds and in-paper features in our local newspapers
- Subscription renewals
- In-office administrative duties
- You must feel confident working on computers and different computer programs

Please forward your resume to Jennifer McEathron by Friday, August 28.
jenniferm@haliburtonpress.com

Thanks to all who apply. Only those considered for an interview will be contacted

The Bancroft Times Bancroft THIS WEEK

Community Events

Send your event listing to classifieds@haliburtonpress.com

Poetry with Patricia
When: Thursday, Aug. 27 at 2:30 p.m.
Where: In the Theatre at the Gardens of Haliburton, 1 Sunnyside St., Haliburton
Calling all poetry lovers! A journey together that's a combination of memory-sharing, creativity, conversation, and community-building. "Where Memories Become Poems." Hosted by Patricia Miller, Director of Community Relations and published Poet and Author. RSVP to 705-457-4848.

Classic Vehicle Cruise Night
When: Aug. 27, 5:30 p.m. to Dusk
Where: Kawartha Dairy, Minden
Weather Permitting. These events are open to owners of Classic Automobiles and the people who love them.

Wildlife Photography - Guest Speaker
Dave Ellis
When: Sept. 1, 7 p.m.
Where: Minden Community Centre, 55 Parkside St., Minden
Do you love to garden? Join the Minden & District Horticultural Society and learn about wildlife photography from guest speaker Dave Ellis,followed by the monthly society meeting. New members welcome!

Travels to Africa
When: Sept. 2, 8 to 9 p.m.
Where: Miners' Bay Church, foot of Rock Cut, corner of Hwy 35 and Miners' Bay Rd.
Weekly Wednesday-night history presentations exploring local history, significant past events, and personal stories from the presenter's own life. Each session features a unique theme plus new local stories and vignettes not shared before. The Air Conditioning will be on, and complimentary cold drinks provided. All are welcome!

Classic Vehicle Cruise Night
When: Sept. 3, 5:30 p.m. to Dusk
Where: Ideal Supply, Haliburton
Rain or Shine. These events are open to owners of Classic Automobiles and the people who love them.

Blue Jay Café - A Family Friendly Coffee House
When: Monday, Sept. 7 1 to 3 p.m.
Where: Haliburton United Church
10 George St, Haliburton
Featuring art by Tiffany Howe. Proceeds from this event go to SIRCH Community Services. Get in touch to perform: bluejaycafehali@gmail.com

Legion Events

Branch 624 Wilberforce
Mondays: Open 7 to 10 p.m.
Aug. 31 Darts 7 p.m., $5/player, Mexican Train Dominos 7 p.m.,
Tuesdays: Closed, Special Events Only.
Wednesdays: Open 2 to 10 p.m.
Aug. 26 - Darts at 2 p.m., $5/player, $10 LA Quick supper 5 to 6:30 p.m.
Thursdays: Open 2 to 10 p.m.
Aug. 27 - Horsehoes 7 p.m., $5/person. Aug. 20 – Painting class with Luann 10 a.m., Aug. 13, 27 - HHHS Social Rec at 10 a.m.
Fridays: Open 2 to 11 p.m. Aug. 28 - Wings and Jam Session 5 to 8 p.m. - $15/lb, Aug. 28 – Seniors Lunch 12 – 1 p.m., $20.
Saturdays: Open 2 to close
Aug. 29 - Meat Draw 3 p.m. $1/ ticket, Aug. 29 – Dorothy Knight Gold Tournament Lakeside Golf Course - $140/ Legion member, $150/non-member, sign up at branch (cash only) – includes golf, lunch & bus. Bus leaves 7:30 a.m., for more information contact Frank 705-808-5298.
Sundays: Closed, Special Events Only.
Call the Legion for more info 705-448-2221

Branch 441 Kinmount
Hall rentals available at reasonable prices. Email: 441RCL@gmail.com. Call 705-488-3462 or 705-928-7105.

Branch 129 Haliburton
Planning a function, call Cheryl Waller at 905-447-7741, email haliburtonlegionrentals@gmail.com or visit haliburtonlegion.com. Club room hours: Mon. 3 to 6 p.m., Tues. 3 to 9 p.m., Wed/Thurs. 3 to 6 p.m. Fri. 3 to 7 p.m.

Branch 636 Minden
Lunch - Monday to Friday
Monday: Rug Hookers every second week. Bid Euchre 1 to 3 p.m.
Thursday: Cribbage 10 a.m. to noon, No Darts for the Summer. Euchre 7 to 9 p.m.
Every other Friday: Karaoke 8 - 11 p.m.
Friday - Full menu 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Fish and Chips and Wings 4 to 7 p.m..
Saturday All Day Breakfast 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with three Meat draws at 9:30 a.m.
Call ahead any day for take-out: 705-286-4541.
Schedules are subject to change without notice. Check our Facebook page Minden Legion Branch 636

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Toll Free: 1-888-339-3325
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Cottage Country Building Supplies
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Echo a Day Late
The Echo is closed on Labour Day so next week's paper appears Sept. 3

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Sunrise Serenade
Dawn is one of the stars in R. Murray Schafer's musical theatre

THE HALIBURTON COUNTY
ECHO
The Voice of the Highlands since 1884
TUESDAY, AUGUST 26, 1997 Vol. 115, No. 28 • 64 PAGES 90 cents (incl. GST)

The hot summer heats up local economy

by MARIA CALABRESE
Staff Reporter

The warm and dry summer might have temporarily withered some of the forests and gardens, but tourism in July and August thrived under the hot sun thanks to a steady shower of visitors who helped local business flourish.

A snapshot of trends that emerged over the summer indicates more events and improved promotion attracted more people to the Highlands this summer. This, coupled with increased consumer confidence, gave most businesses a much-needed fiscal shot in the arm.

Luckily, the usual May 24 weekend touchstone, when locals gear up for the summer season, wasn't an augury of things to come since winter was so slow to release its grasp on the county.

"When you look at the overall tourism trend, bookings in many cases came quite late because I think folks waited to see what the summer was going to be like," said Brian Dean of the Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce. "The first week of July seemed to be relatively slow as far as traffic flow here on Highway 35, but took off after about the first seven to ten days. And it hasn't stopped yet."

Although shopping trends hardly came close to the spending sprees of the late-1980s, consumers were buying big-ticket items again and local marinas, for example, which predominantly service cottagers

See CONSUMERS page 4

PRICE: 84 cents plus GST = 90 cents

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DIVING INTO ACTION: These 20 athletes dared to enter the Stanhope Triathlon Sprint on Saturday – the most challenging of the three races that day. They were required to complete a 750-metre swim, a 20-km bike ride and a 5-km run. Details are on page 12.

School projects get EIC stamp of approval

by PETER DOWNS
Staff Reporter

Haliburton's school board is one important step closer to turning blueprints for a new primary school and an expanded high school into reality.

The province's powerful Education Improvement Commission (EIC) has endorsed the board's $2.3-million plan to replace aging Victoria Street School with a new school in Haliburton.

The EIC, co-chaired by Kennisis Lake cottager Ann Vanstone, has also approved a modified renovation plan to upgrade and expand the high school.

Under a $6-million proposal, the board wanted to add a triple gym, theatre/lecture hall, five science labs, an expanded cafeteria and other improvements.

However, the EIC has told the board to trim one gymnasium and the $400,000 theatre from the high school addition.

Despite the changes, board officials are thrilled the two construction projects look as though they will finally get off the drawing board after years of planning and nearly the past 18 months on hold.

"It's not very often you get that kind of good news item so it boosts the spirits, that's for sure," said board chair Cheryl Murdoch.

The EIC's go ahead means the board is two-thirds of the way through the approvals process before it can begin construction on either of the projects.

Earlier in the summer the local committee overseeing the transition to one merged school board for Haliburton County, Victoria County and Muskoka endorsed the building plans.

Now the board needs to get approval from the Ministry of Education, which has said it will pay $425,000 toward replacing VSS and $1.4-million toward upgrading the high school.

However, a green light on construction by the Ministry is virtually assured now that the projects have received EIC approval, said Murdoch. "We're told that it will just be a rubber stamp."

If the projects are approved quickly by the Ministry, it's possible the board may be able to begin some preliminary construction before winter, said Murdoch.

"We really desperately want to get these projects started by December before the new board

See CONSTRUCTION page 23

SENIOR POWER

Strategic planning committee reminded of retirees' impact on the economy

by PETER DOWNS
Staff Reporter

As Haliburton County charts its future by creating a Strategic Plan, it needs to keep in mind the important role seniors can play in the area's growth.

That was the advice a group of participants offered last week at the second round of public consultation meetings in the development of the plan.

"This county needs a stable financial base, which seniors can provide," said No Wiebe, noting that seniors and retirees moving to the community have guaranteed incomes from government and private pensions. "... We could have a very solid economic base, if we turn this into a retirement community."

John Smith, a former Aurora resident who retired to the county last year with his wife, agreed.

"The group of people from 55 to 65 have a greater amount of disposable income ...They could have a tremendous economic impact on the area, if the area is willing to try to attract them."

During two sessions Thursday at Stanhope Firefighters' Hall, participants broke into several small groups to discuss how a variety of subject areas could contribute to the county's future.

See SENIORS page 22

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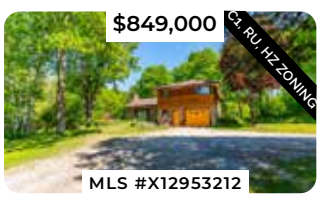
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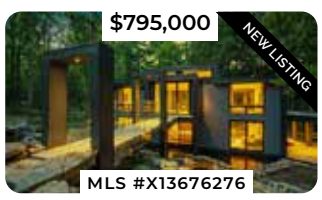
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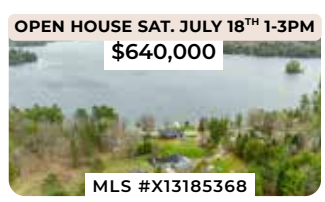
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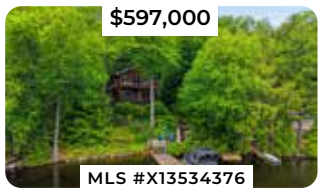
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